

Serial No. 09/615,305
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Response to Office Action

9. (Once Amended) The nanocapsules of claim 4 [8, wherein the nanocapsules are stabilized via crosslinking], wherein an active agent is encapsulated within the nanocapsule.

11. (Once Amended) The nanocapsules of claim 3, wherein an active agent is encapsulated within the [vesicle] nanocapsule.

12. (Once Amended) The vesicles of claim 1 [2], wherein the vesicles comprise a hydrophilic inner layer, a hydrophobic middle layer and a hydrophilic outer layer.

13. (Once Amended) The vesicles of claim 1 [2], wherein the vesicles comprise a hydrophobic inner layer, a hydrophilic middle layer and a hydrophobic outer layer.

14. (Once Amended) The vesicles of claim 1 [2], wherein the copolymers are U-shaped and the vesicles have a hydrophobic inner layer and a hydrophilic outer layer, or a hydrophilic inner layer and a hydrophobic outer layer.

Please cancel claims 2, 7, 8, 15, and 21-26.

Please add new claims 29 and 30:

29. (New Claim) The nanocapsules of claim 4, wherein the hollow morphology of the nanocapsules is preserved when the nanocapsules are dry.

30. (New Claim) The nanocapsules of claim 4, wherein the nanocapsules are biodegradable.

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended to specifically recite that the vesicle membranes are made from amphiphilic ABA triblock copolymers, wherein one of A and B is hydrophobic and the other is hydrophilic.

Claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form, containing the elements of claims 3 and 4.

Claims 2, 7, 8, 15, and 21-26 have been cancelled

New claims 29 and 30 have been added.

The other claim amendments are made to conform the claims to the amendments made to claims 1 and 4. All of the amendments are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-14, 16-20, and 27-30 are pending.